

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. B-4979

### 1. Name

Historic 1401 – 1415 Kuper Place  
and / common

### 2. Location

street & number 1401 – 1415 Kuper Place  
city, town Baltimore  
state & zip code Maryland 21205 county

### 3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	X occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
X building(s)	X private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	X private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	X yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

### 4. Owner of Property

name  
street & number telephone  
city, town state & zip code

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Land Records liber  
street & number Clarence Mitchell Courthouse folio  
city, town Baltimore State Maryland

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title  
date federal state county local  
depository for survey records  
city, town state & zip code

## 7. Description

**Condition**

☐ excellent  
☐ good  
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

**Check One**

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

**Check One**

☒ original site  
☐ moved:  
date of move: \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This row of eight two-story, two-bay wide vernacular Queen Anne-style brick houses with shed roofs and sheet metal and stepped brick cornices were built c. 1895. Some of the houses retain their original brick facades, which were always painted; the others have been covered with formstone, and in this case the stepped brick cornices have been covered over. After the use of wood was outlawed for cornices in 1892, sheet metal and stepped-back bricks became the predominant materials used. This decorative brickwork represents a vernacular translation of high-style Queen Anne designs first seen in Baltimore rowhouses c. 1880.

The houses are two stories in height, 11' wide (12' and 11'2" at the two ends) and occupy lots 56' deep. Each house is three small rooms deep and there is no back building. The houses are constructed in running bond and were always painted. Each house has a single hooded chimney located near the front and rear of the house. The shed roof is capped by a sheet metal crown molding set over a lower, decorative brickwork frieze area. The lower brick frieze is a highly elaborate pattern created by running several rows of projecting stretcher bricks above "drops" created by setting individual rows of four progressively recessed header bricks beneath a final, alternating row of stretcher bricks, which create a notched pattern. This is a highly unusual Queen Anne-style brick cornice design which is little seen in Baltimore.

The tall, narrow door and window openings have segmentally arched brick lintels, decorated with a distinct brick keystone, and plain tympanums. The sills are wood. Some sets of original 2/2 sash survive; other windows are filled with 1/1 replacement sash. Doorways have double-light transoms, only a few of which survive. Doorways show a variety of modern replacement doors. The houses sit on medium-height basements lit by a double-light sash set beneath a segmentally arched brick lintel composed of a double row of headers with the top row projecting so as to form a decorative hood. Each front door is reached by three concrete or wooden steps. 1415 Kuper Place has remnants of its original storefront, with its projecting wooden cornice running the whole length of the façade, but the openings are boarded over.

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## 8. Significance

Period	Area of significance	check one & justify			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theatre	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other: specify	

Specific dates c. 1895

Builder/Architect

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This group of houses significant as representing a plain type of small street house built to provide economical housing for the large numbers of workers needed in the area to work at the Baltimore & Ohio railroad yards and related industries. The houses were built according to a pattern that was quite common to the city's working class neighborhoods of the period c. 1870 to 1910. Recognizing that workers held different levels of jobs (and pay), builders created a hierarchy of house sizes (and prices) in the new neighborhoods going up to serve the expanding factory districts ringing the harbor and northeast and southwest of the central city. Builders acquired anywhere from an eighth to a half of a city block and built 14' to 15'-wide three-bay-wide, two-story houses on the main streets, and smaller, 11' to 13'-wide two-bay-wide, two-story houses on the narrower streets bisecting the blocks. Typically, in this period, main street houses might sell for \$1,200 - \$1,500; small street houses for \$700 - \$900.

Occasionally, the builder retained ownership of his small street houses to provide income for himself as rental properties. In this way people of varying means could afford to live in the same block. If they couldn't afford the approximately \$750 purchase price of the small street houses, then they *could* afford the \$8 or so a month it would cost to rent one, while they saved to be able to buy their own home later.

The houses are especially significant because of their proximity to the slaughterhouses of southwest Baltimore and their related industries, particularly the William Wilkens & Co. Curled Hair Manufactory, one of the largest employers in the area. Moderately-priced housing was built to provide homes for the mainly German immigrants who came to southwest Baltimore to work in these rapidly expanding industries in the decades after the Civil War.

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## 9. Major Bibliographic References

Mary Ellen Hayward and Charles Belfoure, *The Baltimore Rowhouse*  
(New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1999)

## 10. Geographic Data

Acreage of nominated property

Quadrangle name

Verbal boundary description and justification

## 11. Form Prepared by

name / title Dr. Mary Ellen Hayward

Organization The Alley House Project

date

street & number 1306 Carrollton Ave.

telephone

city, town Baltimore

state & zip code Maryland 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Maryland, Article 41, section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of rights.

Return to:

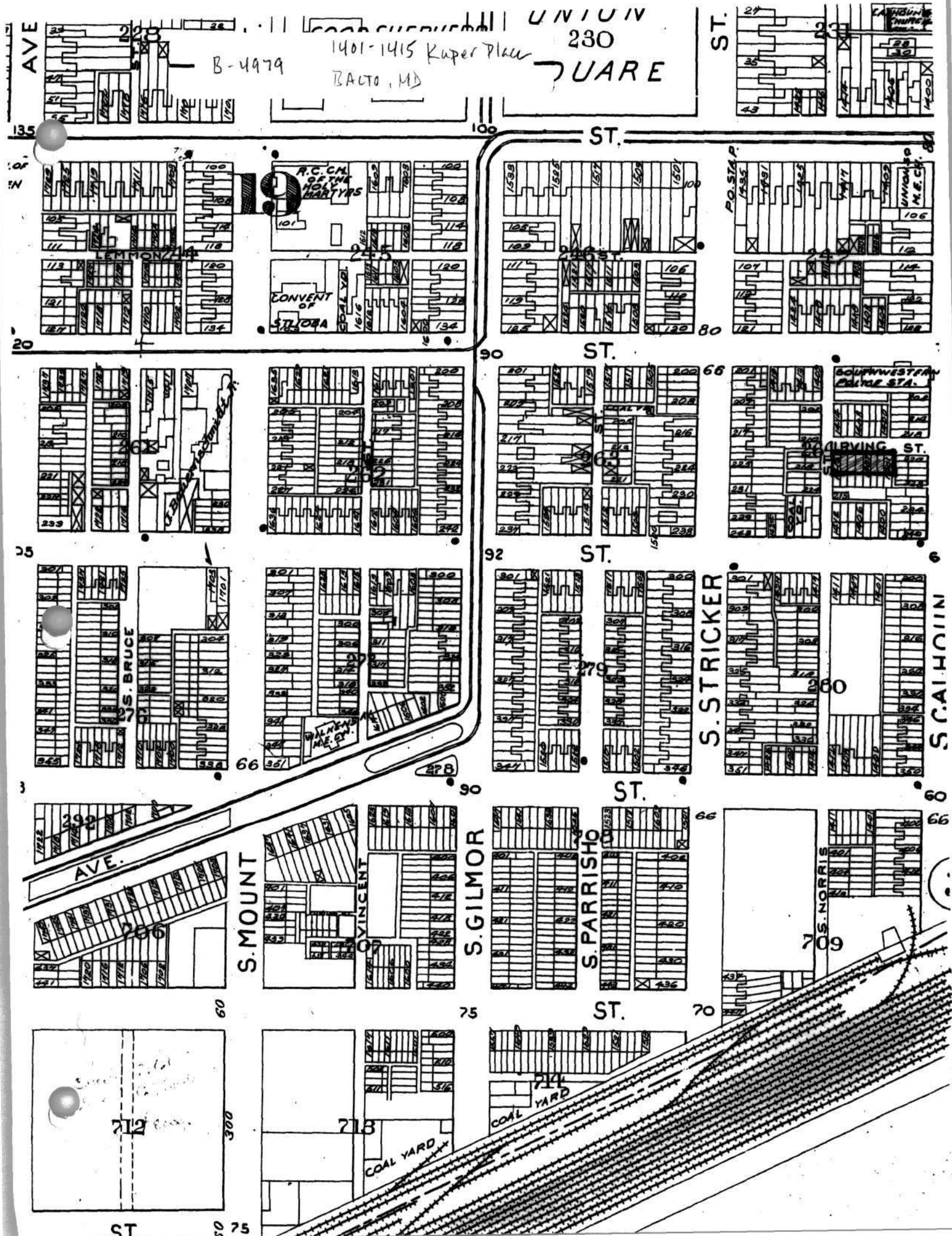
DHCP/DHCD

Maryland Historical Trust

100 Community Place

Crownsville MD 21032-2023





B-4979

1401-1415 Kuper Place  
BALTO., MD

UNION  
230  
QUARE

R.C. CH.  
OF THE  
HOLY  
MARTYRS

CONVENT  
OF  
ST. JOSEPH

LEMMON

S. BRUCE

S. MOUNT

S. VINCENT

S. GILMOR

S. PARRISH

S. STRICKER

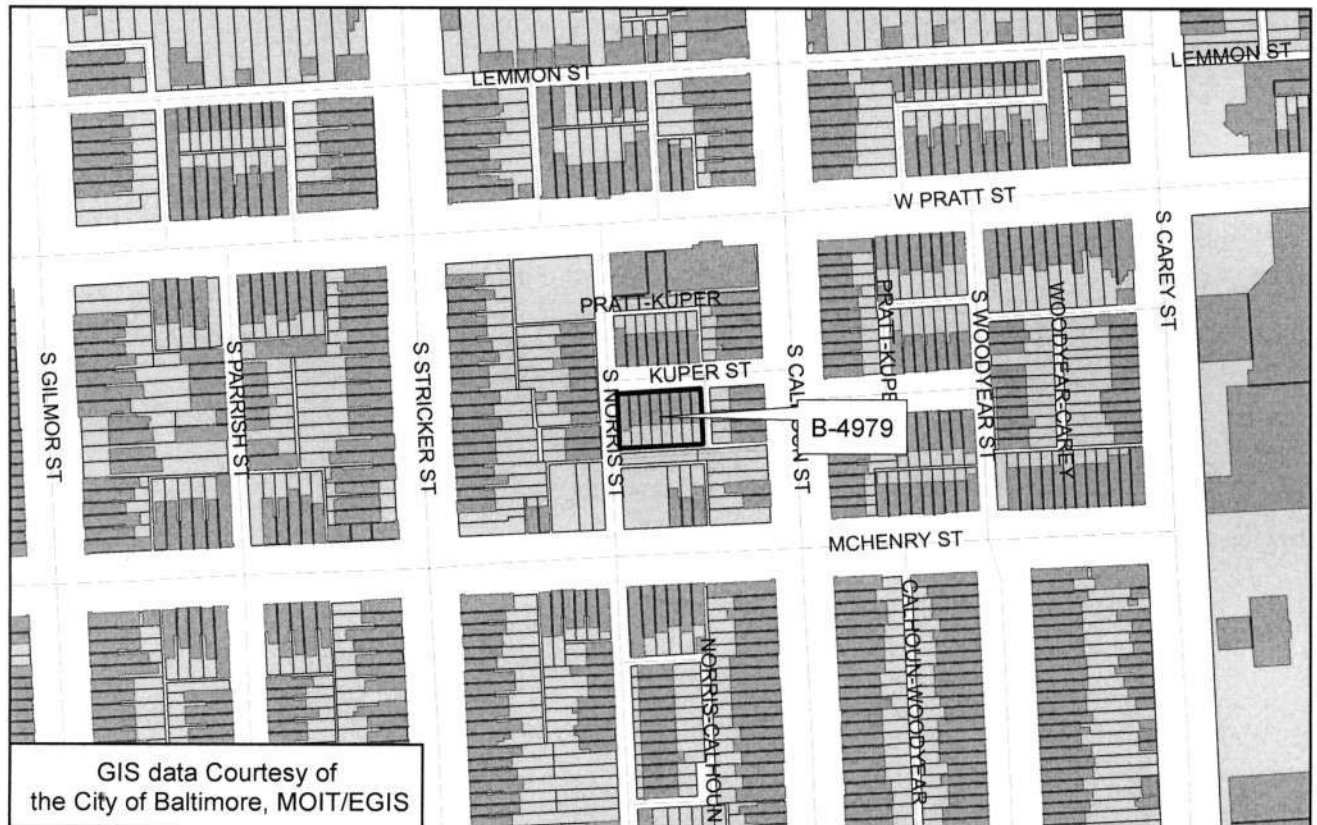
S. NORRIS

S. CALHOUN

COAL YARD

COAL YARD

B-4979  
1401-1415 Kuper Place  
Block 0264 Lots 074-081  
Baltimore City  
Baltimore West Quad





1401-1415 Kaper

SWB-3

B-4979

1401-1415 Kaper Place

BALTO, MD

C. Belfiore

2/98

MD JADO

100

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1025 Super

843-3

B-4979

1405 Kuper Place

BALTO. MD

C. Belfiore

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